

**ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
& BUDGET REVIEW
WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 27, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 1320 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALTOONA, PA**

The meeting was televised live on cable Public Access Channel 14 and rebroadcast Thursday, October 28, 2010.

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Schirf at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers.

SILENT MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Present: Councilmen Butterbaugh, Cagle, Geis, Kelley, Mills, Neugebauer and Mayor Schirf

City Solicitor Larry Clapper mentioned that Council held an executive session at 6:30 and the purpose was personnel matters and potential litigation

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT- none

MANAGER’S REPORT – the Manager’s Report was distributed previously; Joe Weakland stated resolution items e and f would be tabled until further notice as codes is attempting to contact the potential buyer; Joe Weakland stated the properties are beyond repair and that demolition notices were issued to the County; a remedial work schedule will be made for future properties and approved prior to the properties being placed on the agenda

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS – congratulations to Councilman Cagle for his nomination to the *Altoona Mirror’s* 20 under 40

a groundbreaking was held for the roundhouse at the Railroaders Museum

2011 BUDGET REVIEW(EXPENDITURES) – Omar Strohm, Finance Director, reviewed the expenditures side of the proposed 2011 budget

Legislative / Governing Body

Memberships – This expenditure is increased for 2011 because of the increase in membership dues for the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities

2010 Budget = \$14,461 and 2011 Budget = \$19,413

Finance Department:

Pension Contribution – The increase in these three line-items is directly related to the change in pension funding level dictated by the most recent actuarial valuation reports for these pension plans. These amounts were also presented to Council at the Council Meeting of September 22, 2010.

Non-Uniform: 2010 Budget = \$78,402 and 2011 Budget = \$345,478

Police: 2010 Budget = \$786,104 and 2011 Budget = \$1,783,319

Fire: 2010 Budget = \$1,869,681 and 2011 Budget = \$2,592,111

Postage-All Departments – Expenditures related to this line-item have been reduced based on a change from mailing certain items via certified mail to first-class mail

2010 Budget = \$27,500 and 2011 Budget = \$18,500

Personnel Department:

Health Insurance–All Departments – The City's health insurance renewal rates have not yet been finalized for 2011. However, based on preliminary estimates the rates may jump significantly in the coming year. The budgeted amount, a ten percent increase, is a conservative estimate of this anticipated increase. This is in-line with the projected increase forecast by the PEL.

The City is working diligently to limit this increase through ongoing collective bargaining with all of the unions that represent City employees.

2010 Budget = \$3,900,782 and 2011 Budget = 4,290,860

Civil Service Fees – Expenditures are expected to increase in this category due to the need to update entry level civil service lists for both the Police and Fire Departments.

2010 Budget = \$5,000 and 2011 Budget = \$15,000

General Government Building and Plant:

Electricity – Anticipated expenditures for providing electricity to all of the City's buildings is projected to increase due to the elimination of the current rate cap in 2011. Although the increase is not known at this time, an estimate of approximately 10% is used.

2010 Budget = \$38,000 and 2011 Budget = \$42,000

Information Technology:

Maintenance Equipment/Software – the cost of maintenance contracts for hardware and software have increased significantly for 2011.

2010 Budget = \$60,700 and 2011 Budget = \$65,700

Police Department:

ARRA Justice Assistance Grant – Expenses projected for this line-item are fully funded through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Likewise, expenses projected for the 2009 JAG Expense line-item are financed through funds obtained through the 2009 Justice Assistance Grant. The expenditures for these line-items are entirely offset by reimbursements through the respective grant program.

ARRA Justice Assistance Grant: 2010 Budget = \$63,000 and 2011 Budget = \$20,000

2009 JAG Expense: 2010 Budget = \$30,731 and 2011 Budget = \$2,000

Police Festive Holiday – Projected expenditure increased based on historical payment of these expenses.

2010 Budget = \$5,967 and 2011 Budget = \$15,184

Blair County Task Force – Expenditures related to this line-item are projected to increase. However, all expenses are reimbursed through Blair County.

2010 Budget = \$75,000 and 2011 Budget = \$85,000

Maintenance Contracts - Police Equipment – Expenditures to pay for these maintenance contracts are projected to decrease in 2011.

2010 Budget = \$30,000 and 2011 Budget = \$25,000

Police Academy Training – the expense of sending newly hired candidates to the police academy is anticipated to increase because several vacant positions will need to be filled in 2011.

2010 Budget = \$25,000 and 2011 Budget = \$64,000

Maintenance – Buildings – The cost of building maintenance at the police station is anticipated to decrease due to recent and continuing upgrades to the facility.

2010 Budget = \$8,000 and 2011 Budget = \$5,000

Building Fuel – Police Station – The cost of heating the police station is projected to decrease because of the decreased cost of natural gas and recent upgrades to the heating system.

2010 Budget = \$9,500 and 2011 Budget = \$8,500

Electricity – Police Station - Anticipated expenditures for providing electricity to all of the City's buildings is projected to increase due to the elimination of the current rate cap in 2011. Although the increase is not known at this time, an estimate of approximately 10% is used.

2010 Budget = \$19,000 and 2011 Budget = \$20,900

Fire Department:

Vehicle Repairs – Expenses for repairs to fire department vehicles are projected to decrease due ongoing updates to the fleet.

2010 Budget = \$39,000 and 2011 Budget = \$35,000

Electricity – Fire Houses - Anticipated expenditures for providing electricity to all of the City's buildings is projected to increase due to the elimination of the current rate cap in 2011. Although the increase is not known at this time, an estimate of approximately 10% is used.

2010 Budget = \$12,000 and 2011 Budget = \$13,250

Natural Gas-Fire House – This line-item is reduced based on historical costs, lower rate projections, and year-to-date expenditures.

2010 Budget = \$23,000 and 2011 Budget = \$15,000

Protective Inspections:

Zoning Hearing Board Costs – These expenses have been projected to increase based on historical and year to date expenses.

2010 Budget = \$5,000 and 2011 Budget = \$8,500

Contracted Services – This is a new line item established to pay for expenses related to providing inspections and plan reviews through a third party. These expenses are captured through increases in fees related to providing these services

2010 Budget = \$0 and 2011 Budget = \$50,000

Public Works – Highways and Streets:

Electricity – Highway Yard - Anticipated expenditures for providing electricity to all of the City's buildings is projected to increase due to the elimination of the current rate cap in 2011. Although the increase is not known at this time, an estimate of approximately 10% is used.

2010 Budget = \$18,000 and 2011 Budget = \$19,800

Fuel Oil/Natural Gas Hwy Yard – This line item is reduced due to a projection based on historical cost, reduced rates, and year-to-date expenditures.

2010 Budget = \$16,000 and 2011 Budget = \$12,000

Fleet Maintenance:

Fuel-Vehicles – This line item is projected to decrease slightly due to a projected decrease in the price of fuel over the course of 2011, and year to date expenditures.

2010 Budget = \$237,600 and 2011 Budget = \$220,000

Tires (All Departments) – The cost of tires is projected to increase in 2011. This increase has already been realized.

2010 Budget = \$28,000 and 2011 Budget = \$32,000

Vehicle Repairs (W/O Fire & Police) – Vehicle repair expenditures are projected to increase beyond the amount budgeted in 2010 to be more in line with historical costs. The year to date amount is abnormally low due to a FEMA reimbursement applied to this account, which was related to the February 2010 snow emergency.

2010 Budget = \$35,000 and 2011 Budget = \$50,000

Culture and Recreation:

Pedestrian Crossover Maintenance – The cost of maintaining the crossover is projected to increase in line with prior year and year to date expenditures.

2010 Budget = \$8,000 and 2011 Budget = \$10,000

Community Development:

AMTRAN Appropriation – The Local match for AMTRAN continues to increase at a rate of five (5%) percent annually.

2010 Budget = \$105,089 and 2011 Budget = \$110,343

Debt Service:

TRAN Interest – The interest rate on the 2011 Tax Revenue Anticipation note is not projected to increase from the prior year. However, the amount of the note will increase from \$3 million to \$4 million. Therefore, the interest amount will increase proportionally.

2010 Budget = \$79,500 and 2011 Budget = \$105,600

Miscellaneous Expenditures:

Contingency – The contingency account has increased substantially because money has been allocated to this account from which wage increases and other costs related to successor collective bargaining agreements, currently being negotiated with the unions representing City employees, will be paid.

2010 Budget = \$50,000 and 2011 Budget = \$274,494

Councilman Mills asked if the utility numbers were updated; Omar Strohm stated anticipated rates would increase over 10% Mayor Schirf asked about a calculation for the MMO; Omar Strohm stated that every 2 years and actuarial evaluation report is done and that 2009 is the most recent report

RESOLUTIONS

approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, October 13, 2010. (0161-10)

awarding the bid for the Sale of City Owned Property as follows: HWY 1, 1997 Ford Crown Victoria in the amount of \$864.00 to Chuck Sigrist of 621 Tunnelhill Street, Gallitzin, PA; HWY2, 2002 Ford Crown Victoria in the amount of \$1,356.00 to Grace Quality Used Cars, 945 Lincoln Highway, Morrisville, PA; HWY 3, 2002 Ford Crown Victoria in the amount of \$1,256.00 to Grace Quality Used Cars, 945 Lincoln Highway, Morrisville, PA; HWY 4, 2004 Ford Crown Victoria in the amount of \$1856.00 to Grace Quality Used Cars, 945 Lincoln Highway, Morrisville, PA; HWY 5, 2005 Ford Crown Victoria in the amount of \$2,056.00 to Grace Quality Used Cars, 945 Lincoln Highway, Morrisville, PA; HWY 6, 1999 Chevy Astro Van in the amount of \$2,427.00 to Park Motors, 1421 E. Pleasant Valley Blvd. Altoona, PA; HWY 7, 1997 Dodge Dakota in the amount of \$1,250.00 to Louis Perino of 2100 First Avenue, Altoona, PA; HWY 8, 1997 Ford F250 Utility Body in the amount of \$4,121.00 to Thomas and Cathy Himes, 133 Graham Drive, Altoona, PA; HWY 9, 2000 GMC Safari Van in the amount of \$856.00 to Edgar Thompson, 630 Drexel Lane, Altoona, PA; HWY 10, 2003 Freightliner FL70 Dump Truck in the amount of \$21,777.00 to Auto Wholsalers of P.O. Box 445, Hollidaysburg, PA; HWY 11, Three Weedeater Brand Model, 980 Gas Backpack Blowers in the amount of \$76.00 to Shelby Benzel of 119 N. 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA; HWY 13, 5HP Toro 22" Push Mower in the amount of \$37.50 to Hubert Berkheimer, 286 Gun Club Road, Claysburg,

PA; HWY 15, Toro Walk-Behind 5 HP Vacuum/Blower in the amount of \$162.50 to Eric Wills of 2105 13th Avenue, Altoona, PA; with all bid proceeds from HWY Items 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,11,13, and 15 to be deposited in the Sale of City Property Line Item for a total of \$16,318.00; HWY Item 10 to be deposited in the Highway Aid Line Item for a total of \$21,777.00. The total amount raised by the sale of used equipment and vehicles is \$38,095.00. (0162-10)

approving a Settlement Agreement between the City of Altoona and Teri Wilt and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0163-10)

approving the Repository Bid submitted by Martin Walters of 2410 6th Avenue, Altoona, PA for the property located at 2413 7th Avenue, Altoona, PA, Control No. 012-144960, in the amount of \$500.00 and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0164-10)

approving the Repository Bid submitted by Aaron Beard of 2710 Broad Avenue, Apt. 4, Altoona, PA for the property located at 1005 Lexington Avenue, Altoona, PA, Control No. 14-152850, in the amount of \$3,910.00 and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (tabled)

approving the Repository Bid submitted by Aaron Beard of 2720 Broad Avenue, Apt. 4, Altoona, PA for the property located at 201 E. 4th Avenue, Altoona, PA, Control No. 012-70470, in the amount of \$4,800.00 and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (tabled)

the resolutions were read by the City Clerk and the consent vote was taken on all items and passed 7 to 0

DISCUSSION ITEMS – none

MEDIA – Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror*; Chris Forshey, WRTA Radio

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Schirf at 7:45 p.m.